

**CONFIDENTIAL**OLL/LD  
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TO RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE 2835  
RUEHTN/AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE 1582  
BT  
C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 377455

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, SF  
SUBJECT: DENIAL OF VISA TO TRAVELLING COMPANION  
OF ~~CONGRESSMAN FOWLER~~

1C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AMBASSADOR FOURIE INFORMED DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 24 THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL VAN DALSEN HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE MEETING OF GROUP OF SAG OFFICIALS WHOSE APPROVAL WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ISSUE VISA TO ATLANTA CONSTITUTION DEPUTY EDITOR SHIPP. CONGRESSMAN FOWLER HAS BEEN INFORMED, HAS CANCELED HIS TRIP AND INTENDS ON DECEMBER 26 TO ISSUE A STRONG STATEMENT DENOUNCING SAG'S FAILURE TO ISSUE VISA .

3. WE HAVE INFORMED AMBASSADOR FOURIE ABOUT FOWLER'S INTENTIONS. WE HAVE ALSO POINTED OUT TO FOWLER THAT AN OVERLY STRONG CONDEMNATION MIGHT AFFECT SHIPP'S FUTURE CHANCES OF RECEIVING A VISA, BUT ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT THIS WILL APPRECIABLY CHANGE TENDOR OF HIS STATEMENT

4 DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO USE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON THIS ISSUE: THE DEPARTMENT REGRETS THE

FAILURE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE A VISA TO MR. SHIPP, A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN JOURNALIST. THE DECISION TO DATE NOT TO ISSUE A VISA HAS NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR TWO CHERISHED AMERICAN VALUES: FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND FREEDOM OF TRAVEL. WE HAVE CONVEYED OUR VIEWS ON THIS VERY CLEARLY TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY VIEWS ON CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE BY OOB DECEMBER 26. DAM  
END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

State Dept. review completed

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